Expansion of Air India Fleet

147- SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Public Investment Board to allow Air India (AI) for expansion of its fleet costing Rs- 1,100 crores for purchase of two Boeing 747-400s engines from Piatt and Whitney;

(b) if so, when the same are expected to arrive in India;

(c) whether Air India has also invited financial bids from Global Exim Instituaons; and

(d) If so, what is tire response from them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Public Investment Board, in its 419th meeting held on 29-12-94 recommended for Government's approval, the proposal of Air India for acquisition of two B747-400 aircraft fitted with Pratt and Whitney engines, at an estimated cost of Rs. 1137-70 crores-Subsequently, the proposal was approved by the Government and the two aircrafts are expected to arrive in India in July and August, 1996-

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Corruption charges against ITDC Officials

148- DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of corruption charges against the officials of ITDC including its Chairman which are pending at present;

(b) Since when those are pending;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present Chairman of ITDC has oeen on probation for the last more than three years and if so, since when;

(d) whether it is also a fact thai the appointment of the Chairman is being regularised notwithstanding the corruption charges against him;

(e) whether those charges were enquired into by the CBI and Central Vigilance Commission and if so, the details of their findings and action taken thereon; and

(f) if the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Corruption charges made by different quarters are examined by the Vigilance Division of ITDC and other Agencies. If the Charges are substantiated, disciplinary action is initiated. At present a total of 35 such cases are pending. These involve a total of 86 officials of ITDC. The charges pertain to:

!. Administrative Irregularities

(a) LTC claims.

(b) disproportionate assets.

(c) misuse of official position

(d) submission of fake SC|ST certificates.

(e) submission of bogus educational certificates.

(f) filling up of ACRs of fellow employee.

(g) shortage of duty free shop items.

(h) Non-realisation of amount from party who stayed at Hotel.

2. Fraud and Cheating

(a) billing of vehicles actually owned by ITDC.

(b) dual employment.

(c) cheating of a foreign guest through visa credit card.

(d) acceptance of stolen travellers cheques.

3. Purchase and Contract

(a) purchase of sub-standarad stoneware crockery,

(b) purchase of equipments.

(c) award to contract for cleaning/servicing of cooking gas burners.

(d) award of contract for Master Antenna T.V.

(e) acceptance of illegal gratification for approving supplies at Ashok Yatri Niwas.

These cases date between May, 1989 to January, 1995.

(c) , (d) and (f) No, Sir. The present CMD was appointed for a period of 2 years wef- 1-10-1992 subject to the condition that his performance will be reviewed after one year for considering further continuance. Decision on his continuance it still under consideration. Meanwhile his tenure has been extended upto 31st March, 1995.

(e) CVC referred 13 complaints against CMD, ITDC to the Department of Tourism. Out of these 13 cases, comments on 3 complaints have already been sent to CVC. In one case the CVC accepted the finding! of the Department of Tourism that no corruption was made out against the CMD in his earlier capacity as General Manager, Ashok Hotel but that an administrative lapse was involved. This case has since been closed with the issue of an administrative cautionary memo to CMD.

In the other 2 cases the Department of Tourism has found nothing wrong in what the CMD has done but CVC is yet to take a view. The remaining 10 cases are under process.

Vayudoot Service for Punjab

149- SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot Service for Punjab Sector has been discontinued;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Vayudoot operations in Northern Region, from its Delhi base were discontinued with effect from October 1993 due to commercial and operational constraints;

(c) Vayudoot has no immediate plans to resume operations in the Northern Region.

Seminar on Air Safety Norms

150. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased tc state:

(a) whether an Intemaitional Seminal on Air Safety Norms was held at New Delhi recently:

(b) if so, whether the experts partici pated in the seminar have stressed the need to ensure air safety;

(c) if so, the details of the point discussed in the seminar and the outcom thereof;